

DISCLAIMER

This electronic version of an SCC order is for informational purposes only and is not an official document of the Commission. An official copy may be obtained from the [Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center](#).

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

WILLIAM F. EAREHART, et al.

v.

CASE NO. PUE000340

VALLEY RIDGE WATER COMPANY, INC.

REPORT OF ALEXANDER F. SKIRPAN, JR., HEARING EXAMINER

December 20, 2000

On March 24, 2000, pursuant to the Small Water or Sewer Public Utility Act,¹ Valley Ridge Water Company, Inc. ("Valley Ridge" or the "Company") notified its customers and the Commission of its intent to increase rates effective July 1, 2000. By June 1, 2000, Staff had received objections to the proposed rate increase from approximately forty-two percent of Valley Ridge's customers. On June 20, 2000, the Commission issued its Preliminary Order in which it suspended Valley Ridge's proposed rate increase until August 29, 2000, with rates to be interim and subject to refund after that date. On August 2, 2000, the Commission issued its Order for Notice and Hearing. In its Order, the Commission assigned this matter to a Hearing Examiner, provided for the publishing of notice, and established a procedural schedule for this case.

By motion filed December 18, 2000, Valley Ridge requests the matter be dismissed with prejudice. In support of the motion, the Company states that it will (i) revert to charges set out in its tariff currently on file with the Commission; (ii) keep its books and records in accordance with the uniform system of accounts for Class C water utilities; (iii) refund all monies collected in accordance with the Commission's standards; and (iv) address in a timely manner the completion of a filtration system so that it may continue to comply with all applicable Virginia and federal drinking water guidelines.

I find Valley Ridge's motion should be granted. Accordingly, **I RECOMMEND** the Commission enter an order:

- (1) **ADOPTING** my findings;
- (2) **DIRECTING** Valley Ridge to refund, with interest, all revenues collected under its interim rates in excess of its tariff currently on file with the Commission; and
- (3) **DISMISSING** this case from the docket of active matters.

¹ Virginia Code §§ 56-265.13:1 *et seq.*

COMMENTS

The parties are advised that pursuant to Rule 5:16(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure,² any comments to this Report must be filed with the Clerk of the Commission in writing in an original and fifteen copies within fifteen days from the date hereof. The mailing address to which any such filing must be sent is Document Control Center, Post Office Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218. Any party filing such comments shall attach a certificate at the foot of such document certifying that copies have been mailed or delivered to all counsel of record.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander F. Skirpan, Jr.
Hearing Examiner

² 5 VAC 5-10-420 F.